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Quartz Cherenkov Counters for Fast Timing: QUARTIC

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ABSTRACT: We have developed particle detectors based on fused silica (quartz) Cherenkov radiators read out with microchannel plate photomultipliers (MCP-PMTs) or silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs) for high precision timing ($\sigma_t \sim 10\text{-}15$ ps). One application is to measure the times of small angle protons from exclusive reactions, $p + p \rightarrow p + X + p$, at the Large Hadron Collider, LHC. They may also be used to measure directional particle fluxes close to external or stored beams. The detectors have small areas (cm^2), but need to be active very close (~ 4 mm) to the intense LHC beam, and so must be radiation hard and nearly edgeless. We present results of tests of detectors with quartz bars inclined at the Cherenkov angle, and with bars in the form of an “L” (with a 90° corner). We also describe a possible design for a fast timing hodoscope with few mm^2 elements.

KEYWORDS: Instrumentation for particle accelerators and storage rings - high energy; Trigger detectors; Scintillators.

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1. Introduction

We describe the development of particle detectors with time resolution $\sigma_t \sim 15$ ps that have the following characteristics: (a) they are edgeless, with active area within about $200\ \mu\text{m}$ of the outside (b) they are radiation hard enough to be close to primary beams (c) they have segmentation, allowing independent timing of several particles in a single 1 ns pulse. The main limitation is that they have small active areas, $\sim 2\ \text{cm}^2$, which is however adequate for our applications. They are compact, and the best time resolution is achieved by having multiple measurements, e.g. four or more modules in-line, giving what we call a time-track. This approach allows monitoring of the resolution and efficiency of each module, and relaxes the requirements on the electronics compared with having a single measurement. The detectors use Cherenkov light in quartz (fused silica) radiators, read out by either microchannel plate photomultipliers (MCP-PMTs) or silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs).

Detectors measuring the time of particles have been used in high energy physics experiments for decades, usually to measure the speed of particles and hence, in conjunction with momentum or (rarely) energy, to determine their mass and hence their identity. Colliding beam experiments typically require large area detectors ($\sim 10\ \text{m}^2$) at a few m distance, have time resolutions ~ 100 ps and can separate π , K and p in the momentum region $\sim 1\ \text{GeV}/c$. Detectors with similarly large areas and better time resolution, by an order of magnitude, are being actively developed [1].

A different use of high resolution timing is to determine the particle path length, especially for ultrarelativistic particles ($\beta \approx 1.0$). This can be used to determine the position of origin of a pair of particles, as in positron emission tomography, PET, where the particles are γ -rays from e^+e^- annihilation. We report here on the development of detectors with resolution $\sigma_t \sim 15$ ps to determine the position of origin of a pair of high energy protons, if indeed they came from the same collision. That corresponds to only 4.5 mm of light travel time, and scintillation counters of large dimensions with conventional photomultipliers (PMTs) are excluded. Cherenkov counters have prompt light emission, and MCP-PMTs are inherently faster than conventional PMTs, with transit time spreads (sigma), TTS, (for a single photoelectron) or Single Photon Time Resolution, SPTR, of order 30-50 ps. SiPMs have SPTR of order 150 - 300 ps, similar to typical photomultipliers. The intrinsic time resolution due to photoelectron statistics with N_{pe} photoelectrons is then $\sigma_t \sim \text{SPTR}/\sqrt{N_{pe}}$, but for a real detector is also subject to geometry, dimensions and electronics.

1.1 Motivation

This work was largely motivated by proposals [2] to add proton detectors to both ATLAS (called AFP for ATLAS Forward Protons) and CMS (called HPS, for High Precision Spectrometers) at the

Large Hadron Collider, LHC, to measure “central exclusive reactions”. Examples of such exclusive reactions are $p + p \rightarrow p + H + p$ and $p + p \rightarrow p + W^+W^- + p$, with no other particles produced. Detecting both protons, and measuring their momenta (after they have traversed LHC magnetic fields), enable many properties of the central state, which is detected in the main central detectors, to be determined [2]. However the cross sections are expected to be very small (~ 10 fb), requiring high luminosity L , e.g. $L = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, with ~ 25 interactions per bunch crossing, which has a time spread of $\sigma \sim 150$ ps, every 25 ns. Then the desired 3-fold coincidence events [pXp] have a large background from two-fold pile up [pX][p] or [pp][X], and 3-fold pile up [p][X][p], with obvious notation. The time difference Δt of the two oppositely directed protons’ arrival at far detectors, hundreds of meters down the beam pipes, gives a measure of the collision point, $z_{pp} = \frac{1}{2}c\Delta t$. A resolution on the time difference, $\sigma(\Delta t)$ of 10 ps would give $\sigma(z_{pp}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \times 3 \text{ mm} = 2.1 \text{ mm}$. The vertex position z_X of the central state [X] can usually be reconstructed with $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ precision, and by matching it to z_{pp} a factor ~ 25 reduction in this pile-up background can be achieved, since the interaction region is much broader ($\sigma_z \sim 50 \text{ mm}$). In combination with other constraints (e.g. no additional tracks on the central vertex, longitudinal momentum conservation, and small transverse momentum, p_T , for the central state) this can make exclusive Higgs, W^+W^- , etc. measurements feasible. Timing resolutions of order $\sigma(\Delta t) = 10$ ps are needed for $L = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (assuming 2808 bunches, i.e. 25 ns bunch spacing). The time difference measurement between scattered protons was first proposed as a means of reducing pile-up in exclusive interactions at the Tevatron [3, 4].

The required detector area is small ($\sim 2 \text{ cm}^2$). Key requirements, in addition to the time resolution, are *edgelessness* at the level of $\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$ on the edge adjacent to the beam, as well as radiation hardness to $\gtrsim 10^{15} \text{ protons/cm}^2$ [5]. In case there is more than one proton in the acceptance from the same bunch crossing, segmentation is also required. The protons have been deflected out of the beam by the LHC magnets, but at the z position (distance along the beam pipe) of the detectors they are displaced by only a few mm, so any inactive area (on one edge) causes a loss in acceptance. We expect a proton flux of about 10^{15} cm^{-2} per year close to the beam. For both these reasons the photon detector must be placed farther from the beam than the radiator; in addition it may then also be shielded from background radiation. Replacing these small detectors on a one-year time scale, if necessary, is feasible; they are accessible and relatively inexpensive.

We have tested detectors with various geometries, and here we report on two that can satisfy these stringent requirements. Both are called QUARTIC for QUARtZ Timing Cherenkov. The first (“angled-bar QUARTIC”) has quartz bars inclined at the Cherenkov angle $\theta_{ch} \sim 48^\circ$ with light detected by MCP-PMTs. The second has the quartz bars in the form of an L (L-bar QUARTIC or LBQ), one bar being the radiator, R, and the other being the light guide, LG. At the end of the LG bar the light is detected by a SiPM. (It could also be detected by an MCP-PMT, although available devices do not have an ideal multi-channel geometry.) This novel geometry works because (a) the protons are very nearly parallel to the radiator bar, and (b) the refractive index of quartz is $n(\lambda) > \sqrt{2}$. With condition (a) all the Cherenkov light is totally internally reflected, TIR, until it reaches the end of

the radiator bar, apart from absorption (which is small) and imperfections (on the surface or in the bulk) causing light to be scattered out. With condition (b) the light reflected up the LG bar continues to be totally internally reflected, and is not close to the critical angle. (The angle with respect to the LG bar axis is $90^\circ - \theta_{ch} \sim 43^\circ$.) It is important that the bars are not aluminized or wrapped, so that close to 100% TIR is maintained, and that they are minimally supported (at a few corner points). We describe this more later, together with GEANT4 simulations.

Note that the quantity which must be precisely measured is the time difference Δt between the protons at the detectors approximately 480 m, and later 840 m, apart. This requires a reference time signal at each detector with minimal jitter between the left (L) and right (R) detectors, $t_L - t_R$. Reference timing systems developed for the International Linear Collider (ILC) have been designed to yield an r.m.s. jitter $\sigma_{LR} < 1$ ps over similar distances, using RF transmission and a phase-locked loop. A calibration of the absolute time difference (or $z_{pp} = z_X$) can be derived from real events of the type $p + p \rightarrow p + X + p$, where X is a set of particles measured in the central detector.

While the time difference $t_L - t_R$ gives z_{pp} , the absolute time, or $(t_L + t_R)/2$ (minus a constant), would provide another, orthogonal, variable for pile-up rejection if the actual event time were known much better than $\sigma_z/c \sim 150$ ps. The existing ATLAS and CMS detectors do not have such capability. It could be made available with large area (and thin) fast timing detectors [1] in a future upgrade, but we do not discuss that here.

A precision track detector, using silicon (or possibly diamond) strips or pixels precedes the timing detectors, giving the position and direction of the protons. QUARTIC detectors are relatively thick; the nuclear interaction length of quartz is 44 cm and the radiation length is 12.3 cm. They should therefore be positioned after the tracking. Interactions in the quartz are unlikely to degrade the time measurement significantly (and may even improve it!)

Another possible application of small, edgeless, fast and radiation hard detectors is to measure the fluxes of particles very close to a circulating, or external, beam. The detectors we have developed should be suitable for such beam condition monitoring; they are also directional, distinguishing “incoming” and “outgoing” particles.

Refs [6, 7, 8, 9, 10] report earlier studies by our group on fast timing detectors at Fermilab.

1.2 Cherenkov detectors for timing

Cherenkov light is prompt and therefore ideal for fast timing, although the amount of light is small compared with scintillator. Radiators should be transparent, i.e. with a long absorption length $L_{abs}(\lambda)$, where λ is the optical wavelength, preferably into the ultraviolet, $\lambda \approx 200$ nm, where most photons are generated. While gases, liquids and solids are all possible radiators, the number of Cherenkov photons radiated is proportional to $1 - 1/n^2(\lambda)$; more completely (for charge $Q = 1$, and $\beta = 1$):

$$\frac{d^2N}{dx d\lambda} = \frac{2\pi\alpha}{\lambda^2} \left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2(\lambda)} \right),$$

Wavelength (nm)	Refractive Index	θ_{ch} (degrees)	Absorption length (cm)	PDE (%) MCP-PMT	PDE (%) SiPM
250	1.510	48.5	95	20.6	0
300	1.488	47.8	104	19.1	5
350	1.475	47.3	111	18.6	38
400	1.470	47.1	120	13.8	48
450	1.465	47.0	122	14.3	50
500	1.462	46.8	125	9.4	47
550	1.460	46.8	128	8.2	40
600	1.458	46.7	130	7.8	30
650	1.456	46.6	130	7.3	24
700	1.455	46.6	130	2.0	18
750	1.450	46.4	130	0.8	13

Table 1. Properties of quartz and typical photodetectors in these studies. The MCP-PMT is the Photek PMT210 or PMT240 with fused silica windows, The SiPM is the Hamamatsu type S-10362-33 MPPC.

where α is the fine structure constant.

The light is emitted along the particle's path in a cone with half angle (Cherenkov radiation angle) θ_{ch} given by $\cos(\theta_{ch}) = 1/n(\lambda)$. Solid radiators are much shorter than gases for the same light output, an important consideration when space is limited. Among solid radiators, fused silica, SiO_2 , or quartz, (ultraviolet grade, UVT) is commonly used, and was our choice for these tests. Its refractive index as a function of wavelength is given in Table 1, together with the light absorption length, and the photon detection efficiency, PDE, of the detectors we used. The quartz bars we used were supplied by Specialty Glass [11].

The Cherenkov angle in quartz at 250 nm (750 nm) is 48.5° (46.4°) respectively, see Table. 1. This spans the range where typical photocathodes are sensitive. We will address chromaticity later, but for simplicity we use $\theta_{ch} = 48^\circ$ when it is not important.

The Nagoya group [12] measured the timing properties of a Cherenkov counter with a quartz radiator in-line with a MCP-PMT at the back. If the particles are parallel to the sides of the radiator bar, all the Cherenkov light that hits the sides is totally internally reflected, as the Cherenkov angle, θ_{ch} , exactly matches the total internal reflection angle (defined with respect to the surface, not the normal). The approximate rule for the number of photoelectrons in a typical detector is:

$$N_{pe} \sim 90 \text{ cm}^{-1} \cdot L(\text{cm}) \sin^2 \theta_{ch} \sim 50 \text{ cm}^{-1} \times L,$$

for quartz radiator, which gives 200 photoelectrons for 40 mm. The Nagoya group obtained a time resolution of $\sigma_t = 6.2$ ps with 3 GeV/c pions ($\beta \sim 1$).

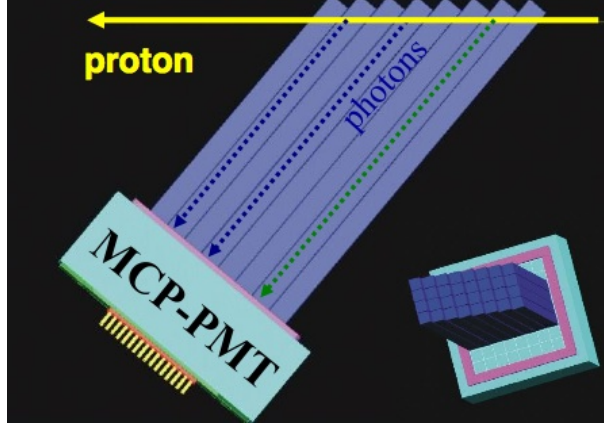


Figure 1. Arrangement of an angled-bar QUARTIC with four rows of eight bars on a PHOTONIS MCP-PMT. (Figure courtesy of A.Brandt.)

1.3 Photodetectors: Microchannel Plate PMTs

Microchannel plate PMTs have a photocathode on a quartz (or similar) window, and photoelectrons generate avalanches in thin ceramic plates traversed by holes (pores) with high electric fields (e.g. 2.5 kV per plate, with two plates giving a gain of 10^6). The single photon time resolution, SPTR, of the MCP-PMT we used is about 30 ps, and with N_{pe} photoelectrons one can expect a contribution to the time resolution from photoelectron statistics to be $\sigma_t(p.e.) = 30/\sqrt{N_{pe}}$ ps. We used a “quartz-PMT in-line” configuration, with a PHOTEK PMT240 directly in the beam as a fast reference time detector in our tests; there is enough Cherenkov light generated in the 9 mm quartz window that no additional radiator is needed. The PMT240 itself cannot be used to detect particles close to a beam as it is not edgeless. (Also the MCP-PMT will not survive the high particle fluxes, for reasons of radiation damage and photocathode lifetime.)

A potential weakness of MCP-PMTs is that the photocathode can get damaged by positive ion feedback, which limits their life to typically 10^{14} photoelectrons, which may be only weeks in the LHC environment. Developments are underway [13] to extend MCP-PMT lifetimes.

Our first QUARTIC detector, see Fig.1, used a BURLE/PHOTONIS [14] 64-channel MCP-PMT, with an 8×8 array of anode pads, each $5 \text{ mm} \times 5 \text{ mm}$. We used rows of bars inclined at θ_{ch} to the protons, with the MCP-PMT window perpendicular to the bars, so that all 8 channels were hit by the Cherenkov wavefront simultaneously. The eight bars can be individually read out and the times combined, but they are not fully independent because of optical and electrical cross-talk. The output signals could also be combined into a single readout channel. Only light emitted in a small azimuth (around the proton direction) ϕ_{ch} range arrives directly; most of it takes a longer path with multiple reflections. Also, while most of the Cherenkov light is blue/UV, that light is also slowest and reaches the photocathode later where it is less useful for timing. Over 10 cm a 200 nm photon lags behind an 800 nm photon by $L \times c \times \Delta n = 100 \text{ mm} \times (10 \text{ ps}/3 \text{ mm}) \times [n(\lambda_{200}) - n(\lambda_{800})] = 32.7$ ps, in addition to any path length differences.

We also used the more expensive, but better resolution, single channel PHOTEK [?] PMT210 (2-stage, 10 mm diameter) and PMT240 (2-stage, 40 mm diameter) MCP-PMTs. Despite its large photocathode area, the PMT240 has an isochronous anode design; with a pulsed laser scan over the photocathode we verified that the output time is independent of illuminated position to within 2 ps.

1.4 Photodetectors: Silicon photomultipliers

Silicon photomultipliers, SiPMs, are solid state photon counters comprised of a large number of avalanche photodiodes (APDs) or “pixels” of order 20 μm dimensions, with a high gain (up to 10^6) in Geiger mode, with an applied voltage just above the breakdown voltage (about 30V to 70V depending on the type). Each discharged pixel has a recovery time of order 100 ns, but with e.g. 100 photoelectrons per event and thousands of pixels per mm^2 this can be acceptable. For the SiPMs the PDE is the product of the quantum efficiency and the fractional area coverage of the APDs. SiPMs are rugged, simple to use and relatively cheap *per unit*, but are only available commercially with effective active areas from $1 \times 1 \text{ mm}^2$ to $3.5 \times 3.5 \text{ mm}^2$. Smaller SiPMs have less capacitance and so are intrinsically faster.

2. Quartz bar geometries

We studied three quartz bar geometries: (a) short bars (from 6 mm to 30 mm) in line with the beam (b) long bars (up to 150 mm) inclined at the Cherenkov angle 48° (c) L-shaped bars with a radiator bar (up to 40 mm long) and a light-guide bar at 90° . Geometries (b) and (c) have the photodetector remote from the beam.

2.1 Single bar studies

We demonstrated [7], using quartz bars with a SiPM directly at the back (a), that the time resolution improves with increasing bar length from 6 mm to 30 mm. With a Hamamatsu MPPC ($3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$) and a 30 mm in-line bar we measured, from the width of the pulse height distribution, about 60 photoelectrons and $\sigma_t = 14.5 \text{ ps}$, and $\sigma_t = 35 \text{ ps}$ with a 6 mm radiator bar. At least over this range the increased light is more important in improving the resolution than the longer pulse is in worsening it.

We used single 150 mm long bars to study the dependence of pulse height and resolution on the length of bar traversed, and on the bar polar angle with respect to the beam, θ_{bar} , with both MCP-PMT and SiPM read-out. SiPMs have much smaller area than the MCP-PMTs. In that case multiple bars are read out independently and the inclination of the bars, θ_{bar} , at the Cherenkov angle is less critical. While light emitted at the right value of the azimuth angle (around the particle direction) ϕ_{ch} propagates directly without reflections, the fraction of the Cherenkov cone that is totally internally reflected along the bar is only about 30%, most of the rest being refracted out. As θ_{bar} is decreased the trapped fraction increases until at $\theta_{bar} = 0^\circ$ all of the Cherenkov light is totally

internally reflected to the bar end. This is the original “Nagoya” configuration [12]. In this “in-line” case, if the radiator bar length is L_{bar} the light emitted at the front of the bar arrives at the PM $\Delta t = L_{bar}(n^2 - 1)/c$ later than that emitted at the back (one power of n is from the path length and one is from the light speed). For a 40 mm bar this time spread is about 160 ps, so that longer bars, while producing more light, may not improve the time resolution. The “Nagoya” configuration of a quartz bar parallel to the particles and the photodetector at the end is not a solution for the forward proton measurement at the LHC, both because the photodetector is not edgeless, and because it would be very close to the beam in a high radiation environment. The angled bar configuration, with independent read out of the bars (and therefore not constrained to have $\theta_{bar} = \theta_{ch}$), needs an optimization on the length of the bar and its angle, considering also the allowable (for backgrounds and radiation damage issues) distance between the photodetector and the LHC beam.

We placed a single $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ bar, 150 mm long in the beam at $\theta_{bar} = \theta_{ch}$ coupled to a single 10 mm diam. MCP-PMT, a PHOTEK210, to investigate the dependence on time resolution on the length of bar (from proton to PMT). Studies with a 150 mm angled bar read by a single PMT210 (Photek) MCP-PMT showed a worsening of the time resolution by $\Delta\sigma_t = 1 \text{ ps/cm}$ of bar length.

2.2 Angled Multi-bar QUARTICS

Fig.1 [18] shows a design of a multi-bar QUARTIC with eight bars traversed by the proton, and four rows for x -segmentation. It is shown with a PHOTONIS MCP-PMT which has an 8×8 array of anode pads. The Cherenkov light with the azimuth ϕ_{ch} in the direction of the photodetector arrives at the same time from all the bars, since they are inclined at θ_{ch} . This design with a multichannel MCP-PMT has segmentation in x (horizontal) but not in y (vertical), which is a disadvantage compared with our new baseline design, the L-bar QUARTIC, LBQ.

2.3 The L-bar design

A novel geometry, the L-bar QUARTIC or LBQ, combines the virtues of having the Cherenkov radiator bar parallel to the beam (with 100% of the radiated light from protons moving parallel to the bar axis being trapped along the bar) and having the photodetector far from the beam. The bar is L-shaped with a 90° corner. If the surfaces are perfect, no light is refracted out and it all reaches the end of the light guide (no mirrors!), except the light emitted in the plane perpendicular to the LG bar. Since $n(\lambda) > \sqrt{2}$ so that $\theta_{ch} > 45^\circ$ as it is for quartz, the light that passes up the LG bar has an angle with respect to the surface that is $< 45^\circ$, less than the critical angle, and total reflection is maintained. This means that the path length of the light and number of reflections per unit length are all less than in the radiator bar, which help to allow the photodetector to be far from the beam. In addition the blue light path length is less than that of the red light, unlike in the radiator bar.

Consider the section of the L-bar shown in Fig.2, with the radiator bar parallel to the z -axis (beam direction) and the light guide bar along the y -axis. For the light rays shown, radiated at angle

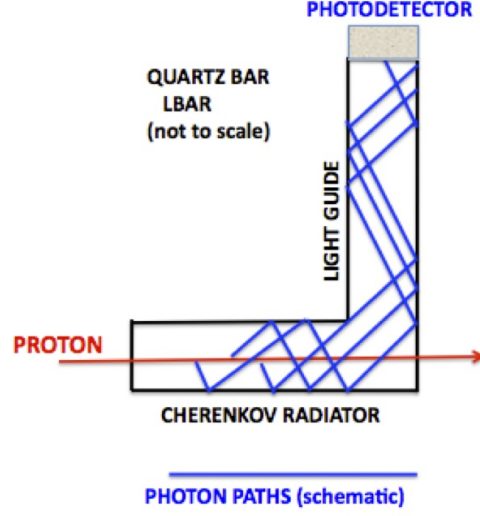


Figure 2. Cherenkov light rays in the radiator and light guide bar, for $n = 1.48$, in the plane of the “L” ($\phi_{ch} = 90^\circ$) (schematic, and not to scale).

$\theta_{ch} = \cos^{-1}(1/n)$, the speed of propagation along the z-axis is:

$$\frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{dz}{dr} \cdot \frac{dr}{dt},$$

where r is the coordinate along the light path. We have $dz/dr = \cos \theta_{ch} = 1/n$, and $dr/dt = c/n$, so $dz/dt = c/n^2$. The speed of light is, in convenient units, 3 mm/10 ps. So for a $L = 20$ mm radiator bar the time difference between the light emitted at the entrance and at the exit is $\frac{L \cdot (n^2 - 1)}{c} = 79.4$ ps.

After the light has been trapped in the light guide its angle with respect to the bar axis is the complement, i.e. $90^\circ - \theta_{ch}$, and as the angle in the radiator is 48° , in the light guide it is 43° , and it continues to be totally reflected. Now

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{dr} \cdot \frac{dr}{dt},$$

and $dy/dr = \sin \theta_{ch} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n^2}}$. Hence the net light speed along the light guide bar is:

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{c}{n} \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{n^2}} = \frac{c}{n^2} \sqrt{n^2 - 1}.$$

The blue light (larger n) now has a shorter path length, partially compensating for its slower speed. Thus the dispersion is reduced. The ratio of speeds of propagation along the bars $\frac{dz}{dt} / \frac{dy}{dt}$ is $\tan \theta_{ch}$, so the effect is modest, about 10%. The fewer reflections per unit length of the radiator bar is another small advantage if TIR is not perfect.

3. Beam tests

We tested prototype QUARTICs in the Fermilab test beam (MTest) with 120 GeV/c protons. The trigger counters and detectors under test were enclosed in a light-tight and RF shielded (with copper sheet) box [7]. The box had light-tight feed-throughs for high voltage and signal cables. A 2×2 mm² scintillation counter at the front, viewed by two PMTs in coincidence, provided a trigger and defined the beam. At the back of the box a 5×5 cm² counter with a 7 mm diameter central hole, viewed by two PMTs in “OR”, was used as a veto to reject events with upstream interactions. For some of the tests a reference time counter was placed at the back (just upstream of the veto counter); this was a PHOTEK PMT240 MCP-PMT directly in the beam. Cherenkov light in the 9 mm thick quartz window gave a signal of about 35 p.e. with time resolution $\sigma_t \sim 8$ ps.

We used two types of data acquisition, DAQ. In Phase 1 (DAQ-1), see Ref. [16], with three MCP-PMT detectors under test, the signals were sent through a constant fraction discriminator (ORTEC 9327) and to an ADC to monitor the pulse heights and allow time-slewing corrections to be made. The discriminated pulse was sent to time-to-amplitude converters (TAC, ORTEC 566) with a pair of detectors as input, followed by analog-to-digital converters (ADC, ORTEC 114) read by the on-line computer. The time resolution of the DAQ was measured [16] with a split PiLas laser signal to be $\sigma_t(\text{DAQ}) \sim 3$ ps. The three time differences between the detectors enabled the resolution of each counter to be unfolded. We removed a few percent of the events in the tails of the pulse height distribution due to interactions or pile-up (more than one proton in the same RF bucket), and applied data-driven time slewing corrections (a small linear correction, determined by plotting the time vs pulse height of a signal).

In Phase 2 (DAQ-2), with more channels of SiPM, we used waveform digitizing electronics, DRS4 [17, 8]. This is a 5 giga samples per second (5 GSPS) waveform digitizer, thus giving the pulse shape sampled every 200 ps and allowing off-line fits with a parametrization optimized for timing. We had two DRS-4 modules (boxes) each with four channels. One channel in each box was used for a reference signal from the PMT240 (the output was split with a passive splitter), and the other three for SiPM signals. These SiPM signals were passed through ORTEC VT120 $\times 20$ amplifiers. We previously published [8] a study of SiPM signals, with a 30 mm long in-line quartz Cherenkov radiator with DRS4 electronics. With Hamamatsu 3×3 mm² MPPC type S10362-330050C, with 3600 pixels of 50 μm , we measured a resolution of $\sigma_t = 30$ ps. Various algorithms were tried on the waveform to optimize the time resolution. The rise time from 10% to 90% was about 1 ns, i.e. 5 samplings. Good results were obtained by a linear fit to the two points before and after the 50% of pulse-height maximum level, finding the time at which that line crossed the 50% level, and then applying a time-slewing correction. More complete waveform fits were found to be not significantly better. We did not attempt to correct for small differences in the time between successive samples. We measured the intrinsic resolution of the DRS4 channels *in situ* by splitting the PMT240 signal and sending it to two channels of one box. We found [8] $\sigma_t(\text{DRS4}) = 6$ ps when the time difference between the two signals is very small, but if a delay of 2 ns is put in one channel it rises to $\sigma_t(\text{DRS4}) = 20$ ps.

3.1 Beam tests of angled-bar QUARTIC

With quartz bars inclined with respect to the beam at 48° (angled bars) we studied single long bars (up to 150 mm) with a single PHOTEK PMT210 (10 mm diameter photocathode), as well as with STM SiPMs. We found that, within our measurement uncertainties, the signal was constant with the beam traversing the bar at different distances from 20 mm to 80 mm from the photodetector. The time resolution degraded slightly when the proton distance from the photodetector increased, by about $\Delta\sigma_t \sim 1$ ps/10 mm for the MPC-PMT. We also varied the angle from the nominal $\theta_{bar} = 48^\circ$ to 20° and the signal increased by a factor of $\times 2.5$, as more of the light is totally internally reflected to the photodetector. The isochronous aspect of the angled-bar geometry is lost if $\theta_{bar} \neq \theta_{ch}$, but if the bars are individually read out with SiPMs this is not an issue. However in our LHC application smaller θ_{bar} is not an option, as it brings the photodetectors close to the beam, and there are physical constraints and radiation damage issues.

We tested an angled multi-bar (8 bars of length 70 mm - 110 mm) detector with a PHOTONIS MCP-PMT (having an 8×8 array of 5 mm \times 5 mm elements), as shown in Fig.1. This is the baseline geometry for the AFP project [18], and we do not report on these results here.

We also tested an angled multi-bar QUARTIC with a 40 mm diameter photocathode and a single anode, a PHOTEK PMT240. The anode design is such that the output pulse is independent of the position of the photoelectron on the large photocathode, as we confirmed (within 2 ps) with a fast laser. Figs.3 and 4 show this detector, showing the internal arrangement of bars and one layout in the beam ("opposite side" configuration). The beam is (Δx) 2 mm wide (determined by the trigger counter) which contributes up to 35 ps to the time spread in a detector. In this configuration the sum of the times (relative to a reference time) in the two detectors is independent of x ; on the other hand the time difference is a measure of x . We did not have precision tracking to study this correlation. We verified that the time resolution σ_t improves with the number of bars N as $1/\sqrt{N}$, as shown in Fig.5.

3.2 Beam tests of the L-bar QUARTIC, LBQ

We tested prototypes of the LBQ with 120 GeV/c protons in February 2012. We measured the signals from four bars in-line in 5 GSPS waveform digitisers (DRS4), together with the signal from a faster (~ 8 ps resolution) PHOTEK PMT240 behind the test modules, described below.

We made a pair of identical boxes, each containing two $R = 40$ mm and two $R = 30$ mm radiator bars, adjacent to each other, and only separated by two 100 μ m wires, to maintain total internal reflection; there was no wrapping. Bar holders were made that touched the bars only at their corners and only at a few positions. Fig.6 shows the design of an assembled box, with two 30 mm and two 40 mm bars in line.

Fig.7 shows a photograph. The interior of the boxes was covered with black felt to absorb any stray light that emerges from the bars. The upstream end of the radiator bars could be blackened

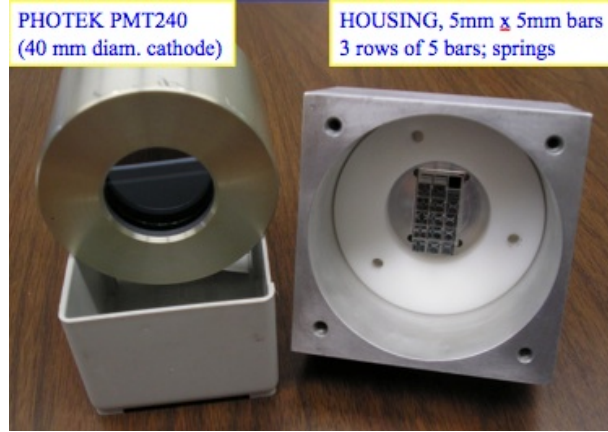


Figure 3. The housing made for the PHOTEK PMT240 (left) with three rows of angled bars. The quartz bars are held in a “crate” made by electro-erosion machining, such that the bars are only touched at their corners. Springs at the far ends of the bars apply a small pressure on the PMT240 window. Optical grease is used.

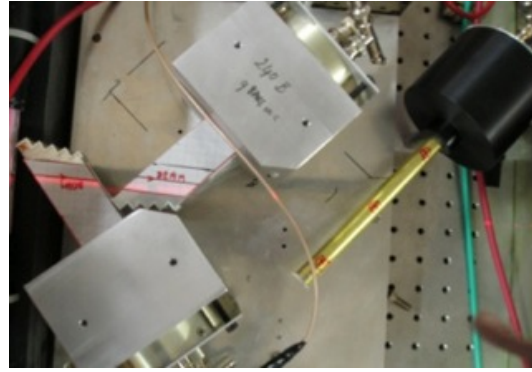


Figure 4. Set-up in the beam with PMT240 QUARTICS on opposite sides of the beam, which comes from the left. The brass tube on the right houses the 150 mm long bar on the PMT210.

to absorb light which is reflected back. We did not do this for these tests, in order to be able to look through both bars in the box (we had small apertures in the front and back plates) to verify alignment and be able to inspect the bars *in situ*. We made two identical boxes, both for convenience and so that they could be separated in z (the beam direction) as an independent check on the time calibration.

The pair of light guide bars, separated by 10 mm in z , were coupled with optical grease to Hamamatsu [19] 3×3 mm² SiPMs, MPPC S10943-0035. These are mounted on a specially designed circuit board, supplied with -72.5 volts, and the signals were output on SMA connectors. We took data in two configurations, with and without 9.1 pF shaping capacitors in series. In the former case the clipped signal was put through an ORTEC VT120 $\times 20$ preamplifier. The signals were sent to 8 channels of DRS4 waveform digitisers [8].

We sent the 2×2 mm² beam through four 30 mm (short) radiator bars (with 40 mm light guide bars) and separately through four 40 mm (long) bars (43 mm LG bar). Fig.8 shows a typical

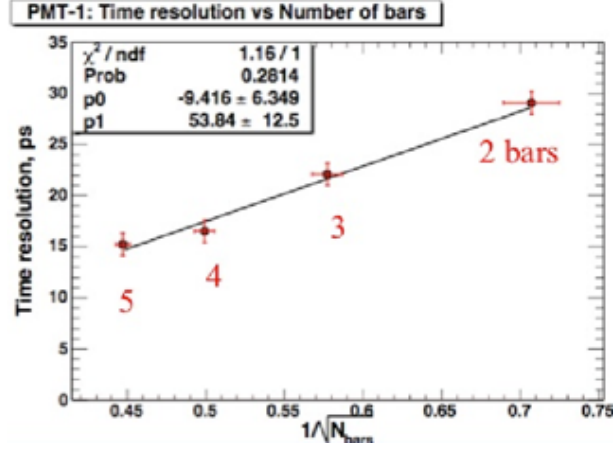


Figure 5. The time resolution of angled bars on the PMT240, for different numbers of installed bars, plotted versus $1/\sqrt{N}$, showing the expected \sqrt{N} improvement.

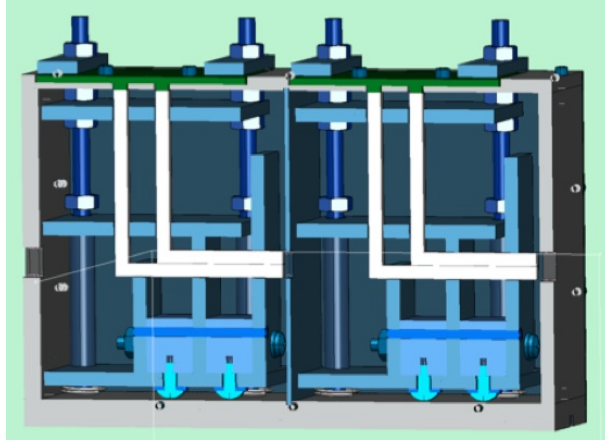


Figure 6. Design of an LBQ box with two modules, each with two L-bars, as used in the tests. The beam comes from the right, and the SiPMs are at the top.

event; the green (lowest) trace is the PMT240 signal (50 mV/division), and the other traces are the signals from three 30 mm bars, with 2 ns/div and 20 mV per division. The pulses are about 80 mV with a rise time (10% to 90%) of ~ 800 ps. From the spread in pulse heights we estimated the number of photoelectrons to be $N_{pe} \sim 80 - 100$. We found the signal time from fitting the leading edge (or the full waveform; the difference was small) and correcting for pulse-height slewing. After these corrections, the time differences between the four short bars and the reference PMT240 signal had widths, from Gaussian fits, $\sigma_t = 34.9, 39.6, 40.1$, and 35.3 ps, so $\langle \sigma_t \rangle = 37.5$ ps. Fig.9 shows one example, with $\sigma(\Delta t) = 34.9$ ps, and no background or inefficiency. The small spread is an indication of only small differences in the bars, the SiPMs, or their coupling. We found that the DRS4 resolution depends on the time difference between the input signals [8]. After unfolding the PMT and electronics resolution (8 ps and ~ 15 ps respectively) we find $\sigma_t(30 \text{ mm bar}) \sim 33$ ps. The time differences between pairs of three different bars in the same DRS4 box were 43.4, 43.9,



Figure 7. Photograph of a test beam box with two sections, each with two L-bars. For one pair the SiPM board is in place; on the other it is removed to show the bars emerging from their support plate.

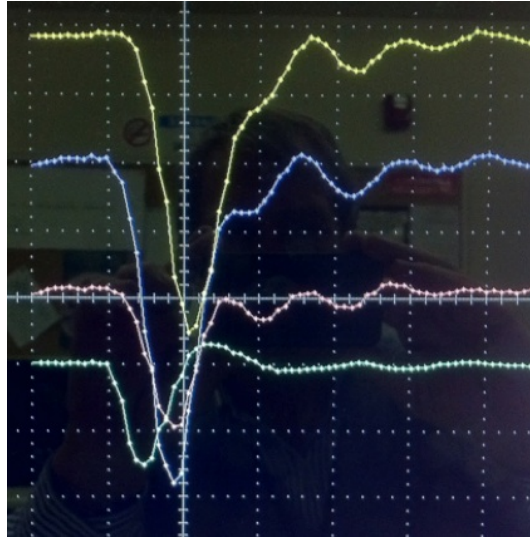


Figure 8. Waveforms in the DRS-4 of one proton through three L-bars and the PMT240 (bottom trace). The time scale is 2 ns/div and the vertical scale 20 mV/div for the top three traces (SiPM's) and 50 mV/div for the bottom trace (reference PMT240).

and 45.2 ps, implying a single bar resolution $\sigma_t(30 \text{ mm bar}) \sim 31 \text{ ps}$, in agreement.

In the proposed application at the LHC [2] we plan four detectors in line. Hence the resolution of the four bars combined would be $\sigma_t \approx 16 \text{ ps}$. The SPTR of the SiPM is quoted by Hamamatsu to be $\sim 300 \text{ ps}$; giving an expected time resolution for 100 p.e. of $300 \text{ ps}/\sqrt{100} = 30 \text{ ps}$, in reasonable agreement with the observations. A full GEANT4 simulation, described below, is compared with the test beam results, and can be used to optimize the final design. We checked the

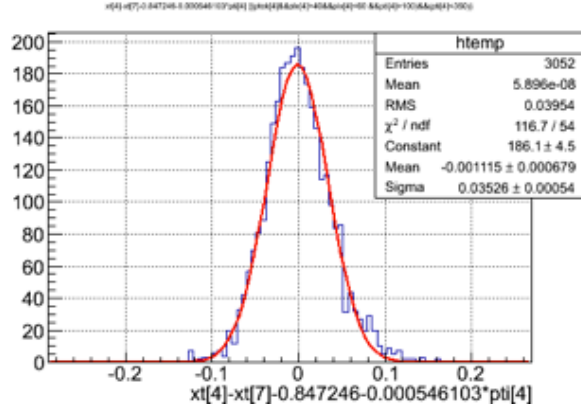


Figure 9. The time difference between one L-bar (30 mm radiator, 40 mm light guide, Hamamatsu MPPC type S10362-330050C) and the reference time signal (PMT240 in beam).

time calibration by separating the two detector boxes by 3 cm in the beam direction and observing the 100 ps shift between the L-bar signals. The L-bar geometry has protons that traverse the short bar and cross the light guide of the long bar, and so they also have a signal that is about 10% of the short bar signal, approximately proportional to the proton path length (3 mm). We verified this with the proton beam only through the light guide bars. Protons through the long bar did not pass through the short bar light guides, and we do not see signals there as expected ¹.

We also measured the Cherenkov signals generated in $\theta_{bar} = 48^\circ$ angled bars in the SiPMs, to compare with earlier results using MCP-PMTs. Such angled bars, with SiPMs on the ends, are an alternative geometry to the L-bar. In this test the lengths of the two bars between the proton and the SiPM was only 28 mm and 39 mm. We measured $\sigma_t \sim 60$ ps in each bar, with about 1/4 the number of photoelectrons. This is much worse than our earlier studies of the angled-bar with an MCP-PMT, the reason being that MCP-PMTs have a much better SPTR than the SiPMs, and extend further in the UV. (We measured SPTR = 45 ps for the PHOTEK240 MCP-PMT, and 120-150 ps for the Hamamatsu MCPP.) Advantages of the L-bar over the angled bar are a longer radiator path, for a given distance of the SiPM from the beam the light guide bar length is minimized, and in addition y-segmentation is possible.

It would be possible to combine the L-bar geometry with MCP-PMT readout, if the pattern of anode pads can match that of the bars. If the photocathode lifetime issue is solved, and cross talk between anode pads² is not large, this could be a good option.

4. Monte Carlo (GEANT4) simulations

We used GEANT4 [20] to simulate the properties of the in-line-, angled- and L-Bar configurations,

¹Optical coupling between adjacent bars would show up, but is not seen.

²Unlike in the angled-bar QUARTIC, the signals from the different bars do not arrive at the same time.

to compare with the test beam results, and to aid in the design of a real HPS detector. Cherenkov photons were generated along the proton path with wavelength-dependent refractive index $n(\lambda)$ and transmission $T(\lambda)$ of fused silica. The emission polar angle θ_{ch} is determined by the refractive index $n(\lambda)$, with $\cos(\theta_{ch}) = 1/n(\lambda)$, and ϕ_{ch} is the azimuthal angle around the beam. The propagation of the optical photons takes into account the surface and bulk properties of the bar (wavelength-dependent photon speed and absorption). In the interval $250 < \lambda < 600$ nm about 450 Cherenkov photons are emitted per cm of radiator. We calculated the distribution of the time of arrival of the photons, as a function of λ , at the MCP-PMT or SiPM. This spectrum was then convoluted with the photon detection efficiency, $PDE(\lambda)$ to simulate the photoelectron time distribution. For each photoelectron a Gaussian time spread with width given by the SPTR was generated and summed, to simulate an output signal. We measured the time when the signal passes 50% of the signal amplitude (from the proton arrival time) to emulate a constant fraction discriminator.

The coupling between the bar and the photodetector is a potential inefficiency. In the test beam studies grease was used, but it is difficult to simulate correctly. In the simulations we applied an overall efficiency factor to account for both reflectivity and coupling losses to match with test beam data. It is preferable to avoid grease, which can spread to the LG bar; a solid silicon "cookie" can be used.

The surface reflectivity of the bar is an important factor. In a 100 mm LG bar of 3×3 mm cross section one has typically 60 reflections, so if the average internal reflectivity is only 98% only 30% of the light reaches the photodetector. We aim for close to 100% internal reflectivity.

4.1 Straight and angled-bar simulation

A bar with the dimensions $3 \times 3 \times 40$ mm³ was used to estimate the timing properties for QUARTICS with straight bars. We put the bar both at $\theta_{bar} = 48^\circ$ to the beam and at 90° , perpendicular, with the beam central. In the L-bar case the perpendicular configuration corresponds to particles through the light guides. The time spectrum of photons arriving on the side with the photodetector is shown in Fig.10. For the perpendicular bar (left plot) the second peak is caused by photons emitted in the opposite direction and reflected from the far side. This does not occur in the angled bar (right plot), as the oppositely directed photons are refracted out of the bar.

We simulated the performance of straight bars inclined at angles θ_{bar} to the protons. In the case $\theta_{bar} = \theta_{ch}$ the light emitted at azimuth ϕ in the direction of bar reaches the photodetector with no reflections; light emitted at azimuth up to $\Delta\phi = 30^\circ$ from the direction of the bar reaches the detector but with longer path length. We simulated the performance of these bars as we did for the L-bar. With 15 cm long bars, we set the proton path at different bar angles θ_{bar} ; as it decreases the amount of light trapped increases, by a factor ≈ 2.5 from 48° to 20° . Ultimately when $\theta = 0$ all the radiated light is trapped. However the time of arrival of the photons has an increasing spread, as the path length of the proton along the bar increases. Furthermore for straight bars the photodetector gets closer to the beam as θ_{bar} decreases. The L-bar design overcomes this difficulty.

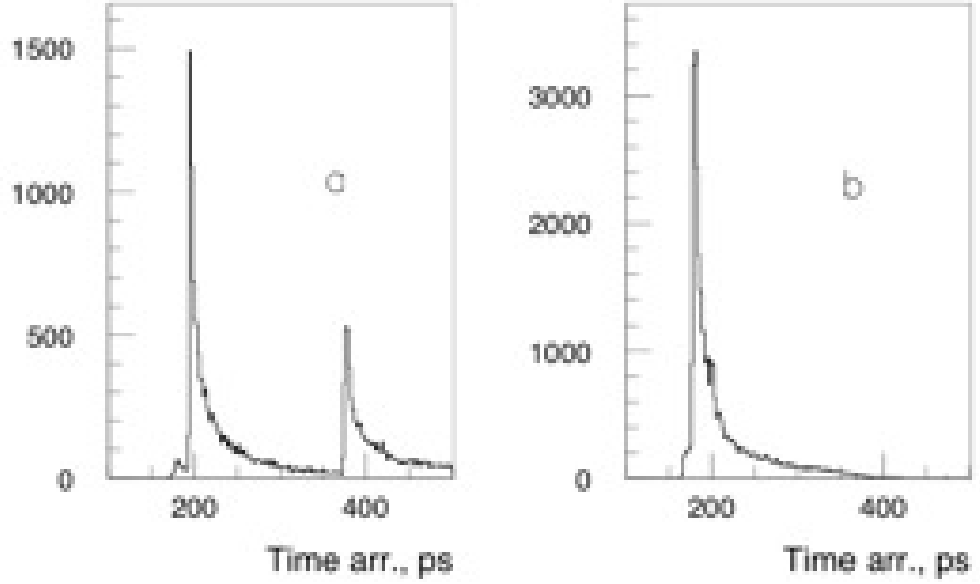


Figure 10. The arrival time distributions for (a) perpendicular bar, and (b) bar at Cherenkov angle $\theta_{ch} = 48^\circ$.

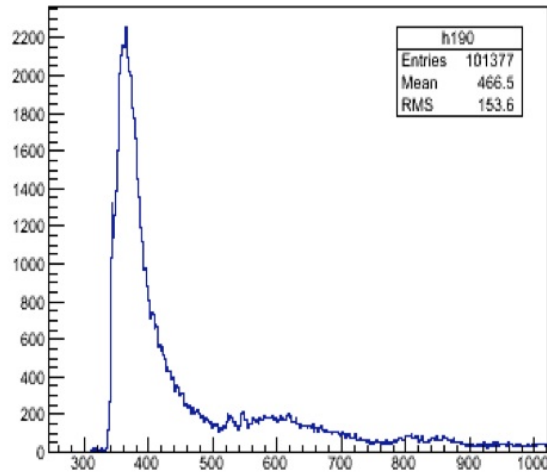


Figure 11. GEANT4 simulation showing the arrival time distribution of detected photons (folding in the photon detection efficiency) at the SiPM for a quartz L-bar, with 30 mm radiator bar length and 100 mm light guide bar.

4.2 L-bar QUARTIC simulation

The simulated photons were propagated by total internal reflection, as well as less-than-total, e.g. 99% on average per reflection, to the SiPM. Fig.11 shows the arrival time distribution for photons

that produce photoelectrons, from a $3 \times 3 \times 20 \text{ mm}^3$ radiator bar, with a 40 mm long light guide in the LBQ geometry. The fast leading edge corresponds to photons emitted with azimuth angle $\phi_{ch} \sim 90^\circ$ close to the LG bar direction (up), and the tail of that pulse corresponds to other ϕ_{ch} angles that have more reflections in the LG. The small later pulse is caused by photons that are not immediately trapped by the LG bar, are reflected back to the entrance of R and return, where they have another chance of being transmitted up the LG. Simulation of radiator bars with both $R = 20 \text{ mm}$ and $R = 40 \text{ mm}$ showed the expected shift of the second peak³. Photons with arrival times t_{PD} are detected with the probability given by the photon detection efficiency $PDE(\lambda)$, giving the number of photoelectrons as a function of time. This is then folded with Gaussians with width σ_{SPTR} representing the single photon time resolution, SPTR, of the SiPM to simulate the output pulse, to calculate the numbers of photoelectrons and time resolutions. We took $\sigma_{SPTR} = 38 \text{ ps}$ for the MCP-PMT and 120 ps for the SiPM. Then the anode signal distribution for each photoelectron is simulated by a unit area Gaussian with $\sigma_{anode} = 0.5 \text{ ns}$, and these signals added to simulate the output pulse for one proton. We then took the time t_{meas} to be that time when the signal passes 10% (50%) of its peak value. Fig. 12(a) shows the simulated mean pulse height as a function of radiator bar length, assuming 99% reflectivity at all surfaces, and Fig.12(b) shows the estimated time resolution. The LG bar lengths are 80 mm. While the actual resolution depends on some factors that are not well known (e.g. reflectivity and coupling to the photodetector), the qualitative behaviour of a rapid improvement from $R = 10 \text{ mm}$ to 25 mm , followed by a slower improvement, is as expected.

The surface reflectivity R_s of the bars is an important factor. A long light guide bar places the SiPM in a lower radiation field and where it can be better shielded. E.g. with $R = 40 \text{ mm}$ and $LG = 120 \text{ mm}$ 100% TIR gives 1500 photons, while an average reflection coefficient of $R_s = 0.98$ gives only 300 (after about 80 reflections; $0.98^{80} = 0.2$). We found by simulation that with $R_s = 0.98$ the resolution is $\sigma_t = 39 \text{ ps}$ (30 ps) for $R = 20 \text{ mm}$ (40 mm). This is very similar to what was found in the beam tests. TIR is even more critical with smaller cross section bars. We will do reflectivity measurements with lasers under different surface conditions to investigate imperfect TIR.

As we expected, the detector simulation shows it to be uniform over the $3 \text{ mm} \times 3 \text{ mm}$ aperture.

The full transmission of the Cherenkov light along the radiator bar depends on the perfect matching between the Cherenkov angle and the (complement of the) total internal reflection angle. A small angle between the proton direction and the radiator bar axis will allow some light to leak out. We simulated this; e.g. with a radiator bar length of 40 mm and an angle of $1/40 = 25 \text{ mrad} = 1.4^\circ$ in the plane containing the LG, 20% of the light is lost. In the HPS application the accepted protons have an angular spread of $< 0.5 \text{ mrad}$, but precise alignment is clearly very important. The directional nature of the LBQ helps, in this application, to have low sensitivity to backgrounds.

³Photons emitted at *exactly* $\phi_{ch} = 0^\circ$, out of the plane of LG are never refracted out of the bar, and would continue to “circulate” until lost by absorption or surface imperfections.

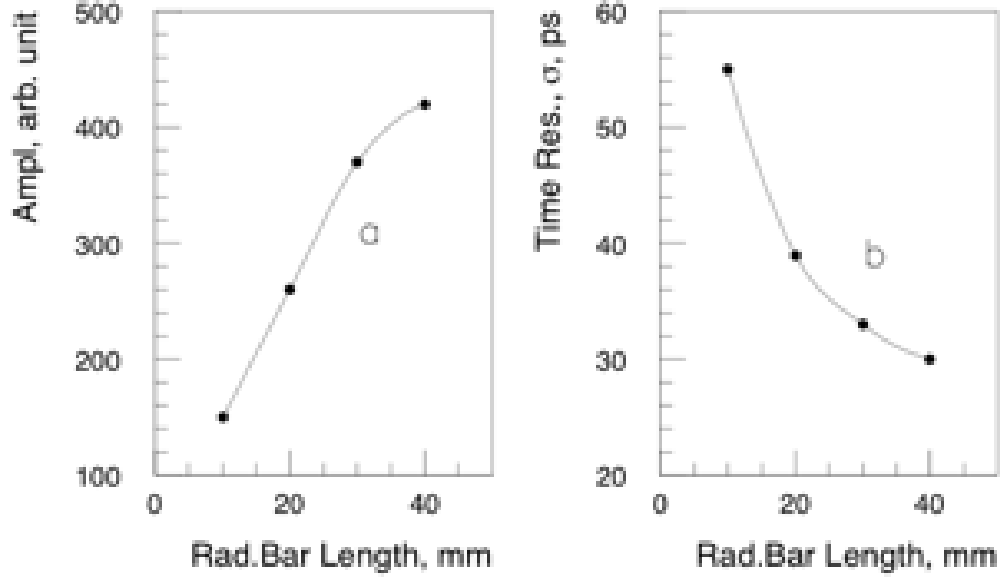


Figure 12. a) GEANT4 simulation of the pulse height (arbitrary units) of the L-bar as a function of the radiator bar length. (b) The simulated time resolution as a function of radiator bar length R . The LG bar is 80 mm and the average reflectivity is 99%.

5. A multichannel L-bar array for the LHC: Design considerations

We now present a design for a timing detector using L-bars for the HPS proposal to add very forward tracking and timing detectors to the CMS experiment at the LHC [2]. Fig.13 shows the arrangement of bars in a module. (A similar design would be suitable for the APF project at ATLAS.) A “module” is a light tight box with a very thin ($\sim 100 \mu\text{m}$) side wall on the beam side, and blackened interior. The active area is 12 mm (vertically, y) \times 16 mm (horizontally, x), see Fig.13. (This is an example only; other choices of coverage are equally possible.) One module consists of ($4 \times 6 = 24$) independent $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ bar elements. This allows a time measurement of two or more protons from the same bunch crossing (which has a time spread $\sigma_t \sim 150 \text{ ps}$) if they are in different elements. The ends of the light guide bars arrive at an array of SiPMs mounted on a board, together with preamplifiers (and possibly also discriminators). A feature of the LBQ design is that the layout of the SiPMs on the board (in the (x, z) plane) reflects the layout of the bars (in the (x, y) plane) but more spread out in z . This is shown in the basic board design in Fig.14.

The bars can be held in place, but separated to allow TIR, with grids of fine wires, diameter about $100 \mu\text{m}$, such that they do not touch and TIR is maintained, in x and y . The upstream end of the bars can be made non-reflecting (e.g. with black felt) to reduce the late bounce-back light. They can also be glued in place at the front without significantly affecting the Cherenkov light. The bars have spring contact on the SiPM faces, with a thin silicon “cookie” for good optical coupling.

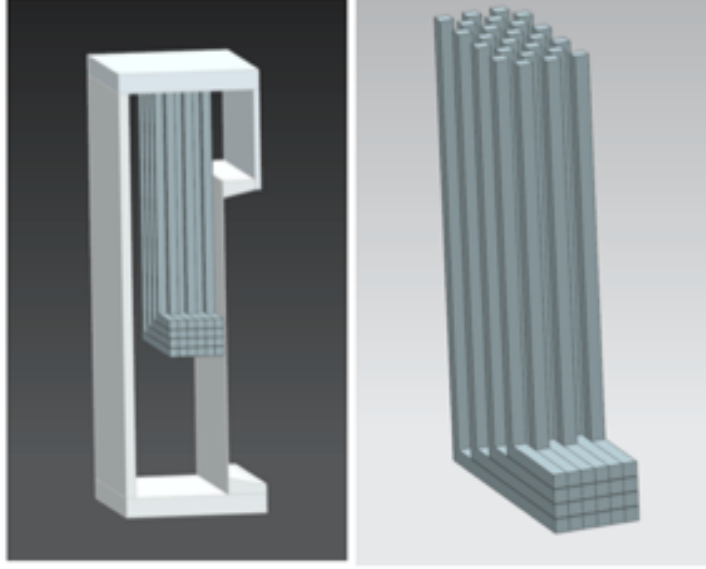


Figure 13. Schematic arrangement of a 24-channel module with $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ bars, with a thin wall on the LHC beam side (on the right). The SiPM array at the top has space for $3 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$ photodetector areas in $5 \times 5 \text{ mm}^2$ packages.

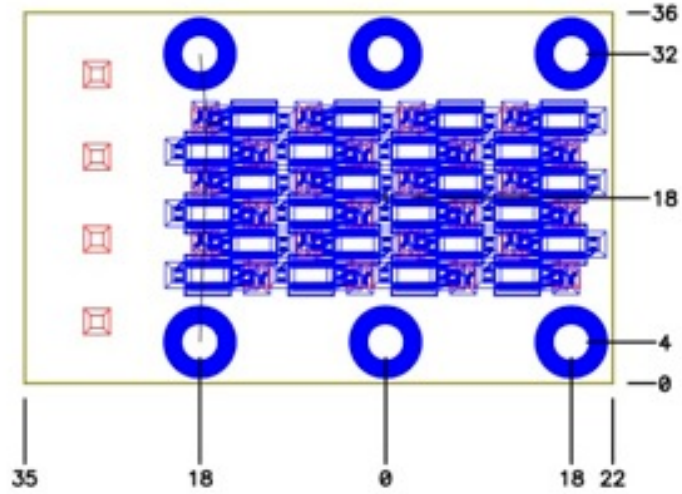


Figure 14. Layout of SiPM board for the 24-channel module shown in Fig. 13.

The LG can be long enough that the SiPMs can be in shielded enclosures and far enough from the beam that radiation doses are tolerable. Simulations with FLUKA [21] show that the hadron flux, with kinetic energy above 50 MeV (from collisions) at $y = 8 \text{ cm}$ above the beam plane is only $\sim 5 \times 10^{11}/\text{cm}^2/100 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ (one LHC year at high luminosity). A similar flux is expected from

beam-gas interactions. Shielding around the SiPMs can reduce the flux of photons and electrons, as well as low energy neutrons, and only the quartz bars and metal housings are very close to the beam. The light absorption length of quartz in the wavelength domain of the SiPM ($\lambda > 300$ nm) is very long, see Table 1. The main cause of the time spread of the photoelectrons is caused by the length of the radiator bar. The component of the speed of the light along the radiator bar is $dz/dt = c/n^2 \sim 0.136$ ($\lambda = 300$ nm) - 0.141 ($\lambda = 600$ nm) mm/ps. Blue light lags behind red light both because it is slower and because it has a longer path length in the radiator bar. In the light guide bars the blue light has a shorter path length, but this only partially compensates for its slower speed. Surface imperfections would cause the internal reflections to be less than 100%, favouring shorter LG bars.

Independent module positioning gives the option of staggering in x, y for better proton position measurement (to combine with the precision silicon tracking). For example if two of the four modules are displaced in x by 1.5 mm (half a cell), the QUARTIC measures a track with $\sigma(x) \lesssim 450$ μ m, which can help matching to precision silicon pixel or strip track detectors. One maintains four measurements per track except for the 1.5 mm closest to the beam (but that loss can be recovered with two additional cells). Alignment of the radiator bars parallel to the protons is critical (at the level of $\lesssim 10$ mrad).

An issue with this design is that particles passing through the shorter bars traverse the light guides of the longer bars at the same x , and they will generate light there. This is trapped and reaches the SiPMs. It is only about 10% of the light from the traversed bar and should be readily distinguishable (and one knows the track coordinates). This light can also be used, in the absence of “spoiling tracks”, to help with the timing. Thus for a proton through the shortest bar in Fig.13 we can add the signals from the 3×3 mm light guides to the radiator bar signal, reducing the spread in performance between the long and short radiator bars. Another option, if space allows, is to alternate modules with LG bars above and below the beam pipe (this requires a mirror image construction), so protons traverse a long bar and a short bar.

These timing detectors will be behind precision silicon tracking, so the hit elements are predetermined, and alignment can be verified. This design has flexibility to adapt to needs. For example the highest track density is close to the LHC beam, and one could have smaller bars, e.g. 1 mm \times 1 mm, in that area.

6. Further developments

The L-bar QUARTIC gives time measurements when two or more protons from the same bunch crossing are in its acceptance. The design of the test beam modules can be extended to 24 channels with only minor developments. Nevertheless we will continue R&D to improve the time resolution. There are several possibilities. Faster SiPMs with higher photon detection efficiency, and possibly more sensitivity in the UV are becoming available [22]. The SiPMs used in the test were samples from the CMS Hadron Outer (HO) upgrade, and were not optimised for timing. SiPMs from STMi-

croelectronics (STM) with new P-on-N structure (rather than N-on-P SiPMs, also from STM) show significantly better timing properties [23]. Tests with a PiLas (Picosecond Injection Laser) showed the photon detection efficiency at $\lambda = 405$ nm, 5 V above breakdown voltage (28 V), to be 43% higher (31.1% cf 21.7%). Also the Single Photoelectron Time Resolution, SPTR, is 174 ps cf 231 ps, i.e. smaller by 25% than for STM N-on-P detectors. Together these improvements lead one to expect that the single bar resolution can be improved from the measured 32 ps to ~ 20 ps, and hence $\sigma_t = 10$ ps for four modules can be achieved.

6.1 Other radiator materials

Sapphire (Al_2O_3) is another potential radiator material, with a higher refractive index, ($n = 1.70$ cf 1.47 at 400 nm) resulting in more Cherenkov photons. The transmission extends down to 250 nm, and sapphire is as radiation hard as quartz. However the time spread over a bar of given radiator length goes like n^2/c , and the dispersion is higher. GEANT4 simulations (Section 4) are encouraging, and show a factor ~ 1.9 in the number of detected photons with a 30% improvement in the time resolution. It is therefore a promising alternative to quartz; but laboratory measurements need to be done. There may be even better materials.

6.2 L-bar QUARTIC with MCP-PMT readout

It should be possible to replace the SiPM board with its 24 independent SiPMs with a custom designed MCP-PMT, 40 mm \times 40 mm, with a single photocathode and MCP plates, but with a segmented anode with 24 independent pads. The smaller SPTR and better PDE in the blue/UV should improve the time resolution by a large factor. The Argonne-Chicago-Fermilab team [1] have recently made 20 cm \times 20 cm MCP plates with the anode divided into strips. Smaller devices with anode pads to match the bars could be developed. If the lifetime, in the harsh LHC conditions, is acceptable, this would be a very interesting development.

If there is longitudinal space one could have more than four modules, gaining as $1/\sqrt{N}$, as they are independent, apart from a common reference time signal which has a negligible jitter. The radiator length was not optimised. The GEANT4 studies show that the resolution improves almost as $\sigma_t \propto 1/R$ over $10 \text{ mm} < R < 40 \text{ mm}$, simply because of the increase in total light (almost, but not exactly). So in the same total detector length one could choose (say) four bars of 40 mm or eight of 20 mm, and get similar resolutions. The 8-bar option would double the cost for little gain, and is not our baseline. The length of the LG bar has to be determined based on more radiation studies (including dosimeter measurements in the tunnel), and on perfecting TIR on the bar sides. The timing algorithm may be improved, and adapted to the read-out, likely to be an HPTDC (High Precision TDC) [24] with 25 ps resolution.

Smaller area SiPMs, with smaller capacitance, are faster; the LBQ design allows smaller bars in the high density region close to the beam pipe, with larger bars further away.

A set of LBQ modules can provide a prompt signal for triggering events, at level 1 in CMS for detectors at $z = \pm 240$ m. The simplest is to make an “OR” of the signals from all the bars in a module, then require, for example, at least three out of four modules to have a signal with fast majority logic, and send a single bit per side to the level 1 trigger. One could also make a more sophisticated fast track trigger, utilizing the spatial information provided by the individual bars. The individual bar bits, after discriminators, are available ~ 10 ns after the passage of the proton. The x -coordinate information from each module can be input to a look-up table that can output an approximate proton momentum. This would not be competitive with the silicon tracking, but any reduction of level 1 trigger rates can be important. Time information from the two far detectors can also in principle be used in a fast trigger.

7. Beam monitoring

The LBQ design lends itself naturally to the problem of measuring fluxes of particles near (e.g. a few mm away from) high intensity beams, either in a colliding beam situation (LHC or CLIC) or at an external beam. It can be directional (the end of the bar far from the LG should be made non-reflecting), fast, and can have the SiPM (or another photodetector) remote from the beam and in a shielded enclosure. For a thesis on some relevant studies see Ref. [25]. The LBQ is designed for single proton detection, but for an intense beam it may be more appropriate to have a gas radiator with a thin mirror at the back to a remote SiPM.

8. Summary

We have developed Cherenkov counters using quartz bar radiators and both MCP-PMT and SiPM readout, designed to measure the time of protons at the LHC very close to the beam, with resolution $\sigma_t \sim 10$ ps. The area required is only ~ 2 cm². Our latest design, with a novel L-bar geometry, has $\sigma_t = 16$ ps, with a path for improvement, and satisfies the other requirements of edgelessness (within about 100 μ m), sufficient radiation hardness, ability to measure several protons within a bunch (time spread $\sigma = 150$ ps) and to be active every 25 ns (the bunch separation). In this design each proton is measured four times for cross-checks and to improve the resolution. The L-bar quartic detectors can also be used to measure, with good time resolution and directionality, the halo of circulating beams (either inside the vacuum pipe or outside).

9. Acknowledgements

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